

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SYG ON THE
PROGRAM BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1974-75.

1. THE US ACCEPTS THE SYG'S REQUEST FOR 14,344,000 DOLLARS
TO MEET EXCHANGE LOSSES.

2. THE US ALSO ACCEPTS THE ACABQ RECOMMENDATION OF 2.5
MILLION DOLLARS FOR NEW PROGRAM. LIKE THE ACABQ WE ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT THE TENDENCY TO IGNORE BUDGETARY RESTRAINT
AT A TIME WHEN THE UN FINANCIAL SITUATION IS PRECARIOUS AND
MEMBER STATES ARE FACING SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. WE
BELIEVE: (A) THAT NEW POSITION REQUIREMENTS SHOULD BE MET
FROM EXISTING RESOURCES, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF PERSONNEL
FREEZES AND CUTBACK IN THE NATIONAL SERVICES OF MANY MEMBER
STATES; (B) THAT IN VIEW OF SOARING TRAVEL COSTS THE UN
SHOULD SEEK TO REDUCE RATHER THAN ADD TO STAFF TRAVEL;
(C) THAT MORE EFFECTIVE USE SHOULD BE MADE OF STAFF RE-
SOURCES IN ORDER TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE TEMPORARY PERSONNEL
AND OVERTIME; (D) THAT SERVICES RELATING TO UNITS TRANSFER-
RED TO GENEVA SHOULD BE MET BY AN APPROPRIATE TRANSFER OF
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FUNDS FROM NEW YORK; AND (E) THAT WHERE POSSIBLE NEW

ACTIVITIES BE DEFERRED AND FUNDED FROM THE 1976-77 BUDGET (AS EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN ADDIS ABABA PER INITIAL PROPOSAL OF THE SYG, AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW

COMMITTEE ROOM IN GENEVA.) WE ALSO FIND UNACCEPTABLE THE FUNDING OF PLANNING COSTS RELATING TO A NEW UNEP BUILDING IN NAIROBI FROM THE UN REGULAR BUDGET RATHER THAN FROM THE ENVIRONMENT FUND.

3. THE SYG HAS REQUESTED 27,556,000 DOLLARS TO MEET COSTS SAID TO BE RELATED TO INFLATION. THE US BELIEVES THAT THIS TOTAL INFLATION COST CANNOT REASONABLY BE CHARGED TO MEMBER STATES (WHOSE ECONOMIES ARE IN DIFFICULTY), AND THAT A PORTION SHOULD BE BORNE BY THE UN THROUGH ABSORPTION, SAVINGS OR REDUCTION IN MARGINAL ACTIVITIES. WE BELIEVE A 15 PERCENT ABSORPTION FACTOR SHOULD BE APPLIED. THIS WOULD REDUCE THE 1975 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT BY 4 MILLION DOLLARS. USDEL SHOULD SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH THIS REDUCTION IN THE SYG'S REQUEST.

4. THE US NOTES THAT THE APPROVED 1974-75 BIENNIAL BUDGET INCLUDES TWO COMPONENTS: ONE FOR 1974 AND ANOTHER FOR 1975, THE LATTER OF WHICH IS HIGHER. HOWEVER, FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSES THE BUDGET WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO EQUAL PARTS. ACCORDINGLY, THERE SHOULD BE A CARRYOVER INTO 1975, REPRESENTING UNEXPENDED AMOUNTS IN THE PRESENT CALENDAR YEAR, IN AN AMOUNT OF ABOUT 1.0 MILLION DOLLARS. USDEL SHOULD ASK TO REDUCE THE SYG'S ESTIMATE BY THIS AMOUNT.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING USDEL MAY SUPPORT AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF NOT TO EXCEED 39,400,000 DOLLARS. IT SHOULD ABSTAIN IN A VOTE ON ANY AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF THAT FIGURE. INGERSOLL

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